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THE KENNEDY ASSASSINATION

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INTRODUCTION: THE CATO FORUM, indepth analysis encompassing liberal, conservative, and libertarian perspectives on today's critical public issues and policies.

Today's commentator, economic analyst, Dr. D. T. Armentano.

DR. ARMENTANO: In spite of repeated official reassurances, the brutal murder of President John Kennedy remains unsolved. The Warren Commission didn't really investigate the assassination. They simply swallowed the FBI theory that Oswald, acting alone, shot the President from the sixth floor of Texas School Book Depository and then simply set about supporting that assumption.

These are harsh charges, but they have all been more than carefully documented, particularly in the tireless works of writer and researcher Harold Weisberg who has written six books on the JFK assassination and cover-up. In Weisberg's latest book, Post Mortem, he tears to final shreds the final cover-up of the assassination.

Perhaps his most sensational revelation concerns the alleged shot that the Warren Report claimed passed through the rear of Kennedy's neck and inflicted all the near-fatal wounds on Governor John Connally, the so-called magic bullet, number 399.

Aside from the well-known fact that there was more metal by weight in Connally than was missing from bullet 399, Weisberg demonstrates conclusively that the shot was in Kennedy's back, not in his neck, and is so specified in the official federal certificate of death signed by Kennedy's own Navy doctor. Further and even more damaging to the official explanation, Weisberg revealed that the alleged bullet holes in the shirt and tie through which the magic bullet allegedly exited to hit Connally are, in fact, not holes at all and certainly not bullet holes, but tears or slits most probably made by the nurses at Parkland Hospital in an effort to remove Kennedy's shirt and tie.

Post Mortem contains the first close-up pictures of the shirt and collar area so that the public can literally see the nonsense of the Warren Report explanation. There is no way that the Warren Commission could not know the facts that Weisberg has revealed and no way, therefore, that the Report is not the most reprehensible cover-up in all governmental history.

I'll be back in a minute with some final thoughts.

The House Assassinations Committee is currently winding up its reinvestigation of the Kennedy slaying and promises a comprehensive report in December. Hopefully, this Committee will tell us,

among other things, who that man in the doorway really is in the famous Elkins photo, the man who bears an incredible resemblance to Lee Oswald. The Warren Commission identified him not as Oswald, but as one Bill Nolan Lovelady, another Book Depository employee. However, Lovelady was reportedly wearing a striped shirt the day of the assassination and had a full growth of beard.

Now, the man in the Elkins photo is cleanshaven and is wearing a long-sleeved flecked shirt that appears to identical to the shirt Oswald wears in his official arrest photo, even to the missing front buttons and identical furls on the right collar. If this man is, indeed, Oswald and not Lovelady, then we are back to square one in the assassination investigation.

If the House Assassinations Committee report does not deal conclusively with this and all the other mysteries surrounding the assassination, the American people will have been the victim of still another governmental whitewash.

This is Dom Armentano for THE CATO FORUM.